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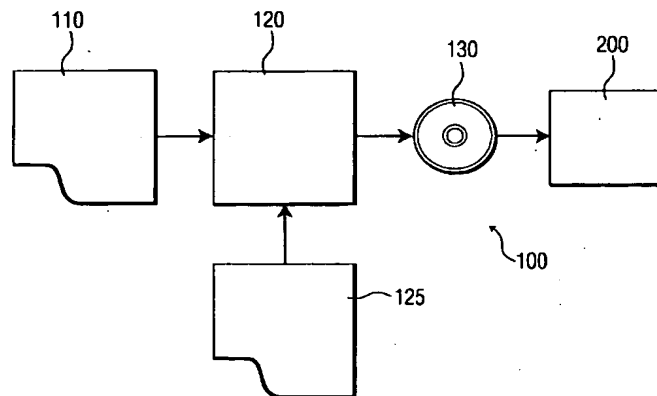
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROTECTION OF CONTENT USING BIOMETRIC WATERMARKS**



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus are that restrict access to digital content to an authorized user on one or more systems using biometric watermarks. The disclosed biometric watermarking techniques allow an authorized user to be uniquely identified. Access to digital content is restricted to digital content in accordance with the present invention by embedding a biometric watermark, such as a biometric image, in the content. Thereafter, a user can only access the content if a biometric sample of the user matches the embedded biometric watermark. In one variation, the user can only access the content if the biometric sample is a live biometric sample. The embedded biometric watermark optionally includes information describing a system employed by the user to obtain the content. The user can optionally be permitted to access the content, without a biometric evaluation, if the content is on a system that has been previously authorized for the user using a biometric evaluation.

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